Licences for chartering of fishing vessels

2371. SHRI GOPALSINH. G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been issuing licences for chartering of fishing vessels;

(b) whether the Expert Committee recommended to continue issuing licences for such charters;

(c) the list of the present charter holders and the dates on which the permissions were given and duration of the charter;

(d) whether the foreign operators report negligible catch, thereby putting us to a great loss;

(e) the details of the catch shown by those charters during the last three years; and

(f) whether there was a move to completely stop issuing such charters to conserve our ocean wealth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) In pursuance of policies framed in 1981 and 1986 for chartering of foreign fishing vessels, permits were issued under section 5 of the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981.

(b) While no Expert Committee has been constituted for specifically going in to the question of issuing permits for chartering of foreign fishing vessels, an Empowered Committee of Secretaries had considered the entire charter policy and it was decided that there was no need for further continuance of the policy and accordingly all the applications received under the 1989 Charter Policy be disposed off in accordance with correct legal modalities. It was also felt that the existing Letters of Intent|Permits would continue to be in force till their validity expires.

(c) A list of companies who have been granted permits under the 1981| 1986 Charter Policies is given at Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXII, Annexure No. 53].

(d) No Sir. However, foreign exchange earning from the catches of the chartered vessels has been between 0.2 to 0.8 per cent of the total earnings from marine product exports in the year 1988 to 1990.

(e) The total catch (Qty.) by chartering of foreign vessels for the last three years as per the voyage reports received in this Ministry is as under:—

1989 — 8557 tons
1990 — 18637 tons
1991 — 7952 tons

(provisional)

(f) The intention of the Government is to encourage development of indigenous deep sea fishing industry by encouraging leasing, test fishing and joint ventures. In this direction the Government have not operationalised the Charter Policy of 1989.

Food Processing Industries

2372. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food processing industries in the country; Statewise, with respective number of workers engaged in them; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for the promotion of this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) While information in regard to the number of